

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071474
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DUBLIN PASS BELFAST

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: JOINT STATEMENT OF SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES AND
GOVERNORS ON NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: STATE 068135

1. FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S PROVIDED DEPARTMENT'S PRESS
SPOKESMAN FOR USE ON "IF ASKED" BASIS. POSTS SHOULD
DRAW UPON THEM, AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE, IN RE-
SPONDING TO ENQUIRIES. POSTS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT
OTHERWISE COMMENT ON STATEMENT BUT SHOULD SUGGEST THAT
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DIRECTED TO THOSE WHO SIGNED IT.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THE MARCH 16 STATEMENT ON
NORTHERN IRELAND BY A GROUP OF SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN
AND GOVERNORS LED BY SENATOR KENNEDY?

A: WE WELCOME THE GROUP'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND OF LAST AUGUST 30, AND ITS CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE AND OF US-BASED SUPPORT FOR

VIOLENCE IN THAT TROUBLED AREA.

Q: WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONSULTED ON THIS?

A: A CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER INFORMED US THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO MAKING A STATEMENT. WE WERE NOT CONSULTED ABOUT THE CONTENT OR ACTUAL TEXT.

Q: THE STATEMENT SUGGESTS THAT PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IS IMPEDED BY PROTESTANT INTRANSIGENCE AND INEFFECTIVE BRITISH LEADERSHIP. DO YOU AGREE?

A: I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT, BEYOND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT ALL THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED WILL REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT INVOLVING BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND--ONE THAT THE PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND CAN SUPPORT.

Q: THE GROUP CONDEMNS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS FOUND BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS COURT. WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THAT?

A: ON JANUARY 18 THE COURT FOUND THAT INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES USED IN 1971 BY UK SECURITY FORCES AGAINST SUSPECTED TERRORISTS THERE CONSTITUTED "INHUMAN AND DEGRADING" PUNISHMENT. THE COURT REJECTED THE CHARGE THAT THEY CONSTITUTED TORTURE. THE COURT NOTED BRITAIN'S PLEDGE THAT THE TECHNIQUES HAD BEEN STOPPED, WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE USED, AND THAT COMPENSATION WAS PAID TO THE VICTIMS. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE VERDICT. I HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

Q: IS THE USG CONDEMNING WHAT THE BRITISH DID?

A: WE CONDEMN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHEREVER THEY OCCUR--INCLUDING IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, BETWEEN THE ACTS OF INDIVIDUALS OR SMALL GROUPS WHO OVERSTEP THE LIMITS OF AUTHORITY AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, OFFICIALLY INSTITUTED REPRESSION. THE COURT'S VERDICT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. THAT IS ALL I WILL SAY ON THIS POINT.

Q: THE GROUP SPEAKS OF AMERICAN FINANCIAL AID FOR JOBS
AND INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AFTER A SETTLEMENT.
WHAT IS THAT ABOUT?

A: THE PRESIDENT'S AUGUST 30 STATEMENT SAYS THAT, IN
EVENT OF A SETTLEMENT, "THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE
PREPARED TO JOIN WITH OTHERS TO SEE HOW ADDITIONAL
JOB-CREATING INVESTMENT COULD BE ENCOURAGED."

Q: CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?

A: WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW INVESTMENT MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED
BUT HAVE MADE NO DECISIONS. IT IS PREMATURE TO GO INTO
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DETAILS, SINCE A SETTLEMENT UNFORTUNATELY IS NOT IN
SIGHT.

Q: THE GROUP SAYS IT SHARES "THE GREAT GOAL OF IRISH
UNITY." WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THAT?

A: AS THE PRESIDENT SAID IN HIS STATEMENT, USG POLICY
ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUE HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF
IMPARTIALITY, AND THAT IS HOW IT WILL REMAIN. WE
SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN
NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH WILL COMMAND WIDESPREAD
ACCEPTANCE THROUGHOUT BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY
BUT HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING THE PARTIES HOW THIS
MIGHT BE ACHIEVED. VANCE

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